

a transmission inhibit signal generating device to generate an inhibit signal during activation of the inhibit function;

a switching device interposed between a supply potential and the first node which is closed in response to the inhibit signal.

20. (New) The device according to claim 19, wherein the test signal line for tapping the potential of the transmission line is connected to a second node between the first node and a transmission port of the network component, the transmission port being connected to the transmission line.

21. (New) The device according to claim 19, wherein the test signal line for tapping the transmission of the transmission line is connected to a second node in the network component upstream of the transmission port of the network component.

22. (New) The device according to claim 19. wherein the network component includes a Controller Area Network (CAN) controller which is connected via the transmission line to a CAN transmission/receiving device which, in turn, is connected to a CAN bus.

#### Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-11 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/03452 and adds new claims 12-22. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the title, the specification and the abstract conform the title, the specification and the abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application PCT/DE99/02158 includes an International Search Report dated February 17, 2000. An English translation of the Search Report is provided herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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